

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough Examination of the application. The specification has been amended to improve the language thereof without changing the scope. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 are allowed. Claim 18 is cancelled by this amendment. Claims 19 and 20 find support in cancelled claim 18. Claims 1-17 have been amended to improve their language without reducing their scope.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for ill-defining a process.

Applicants traverse.

Claim 18 is cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 18 moot. Claims 19 and 20 are drawn to the subject matter of claim 18, but are presented as product claims. Claims 19 and 20 are also clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

These rejections are accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the information disclosure statements filed February 2, 2002 and March 27, 2002, and for making the initialed PTO-1449 forms of record in the application in the Office Action mailed September 24, 2003.

Prior Art Cited by the Examiner

The prior art cited in form PTO-892 but not utilized by the examiner shows the status of the related art that the invention supercedes. Additionally remarks are accordingly not necessary.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority in the Office Action mailed September 24, 2003.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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